

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE TORRANCE WATER COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Water Commission convened in a regular session at 7:02 p.m. on Thursday, May 17, 2007 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Deemer, Lew, Rizzardi, See, Warner, White, and Chairperson Hoffman*.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Public Works Director Beste,
Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden,
Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich,
Project Manager Dettle, and
Metropolitan Water District Director Wright.

*Chairperson Hoffman arrived at 7:16 p.m.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner White led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner White moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Rizzardi seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES FROM MARCH 15, 2007

MOTION: Commissioner White moved for the approval of the April 19, 2007 Water Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Warner seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

7. NEW BUSINESS

**7A. PRESENTATION BY METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT REGARDING
RESIDUAL PHARMACEUTICALS IN DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLIES AND
RELATED WATER QUALITY ISSUES**

This item was taken out of order.

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden introduced the item and welcomed Senior Environmental Specialist Edgar Dymally from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

With the aid of a power point presentation, Senior Environmental Specialist Dymally provided an overview on Occurrence of Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products in Surface Waters and Their Significance to the Drinking Water Industry. He noted that the presence of Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products (PPCPs) was an emerging issue that is cause for concern but has not been totally quantified. He stated there are no definitive answers how human health is being impacted, and that recent concern has focused on the impact of PPCPs on aquatic life.

He reported that Xenobiotics, foreign or biologically active compounds, are divided into two classifications: 1) endocrine disruptors that include human, animal, and plant hormones, detergent residues, low volatility solvents, and plasticizers, and 2) PPCPs that include prescription, over-the-counter, and illicit drugs, disinfectants, deodorants, and fragrances. He reported that "evidence" of endocrine disruption include a 50% decrease in human sperm quantity and quality, same sex "mating" behavior in gulls, increases in human breast, prostate, and testicular cancers in the past 40 years, and documented effects on aquatic life including "feminization" of alligators.

Chairperson Hoffman arrived at 7:16 p.m.

Senior Environmental Specialist Dymally reported that there are 10,000 human drugs currently on the market, over 140,000 bioactive compounds in various phases of drug research and development, and over 28 million known organic and inorganic chemicals. He stated that the Endocrine Disruptor Screening and Testing Advisory Committee (EDSTAC) has targeted 95 compounds for screening. He presented a graph showing the total number of regulated contaminants from 1914 to 2006, noting the passage of the Safe Drinking Water Act in 1974 and subsequent amendments in 1986 and 1996. He stated that what is absent from this list of regulated contaminants is many of the endocrine disruptors and PPCPs.

He discussed the prevalence and distribution of manmade (anthropogenic) and naturally occurring chemicals. He stated that the U.S. Geological Survey's national reconnaissance in rivers and streams found 82 of the 95 targeted PPCPs, noting that the main source of PPCPs in surface and groundwater is municipal waste water.

In response to Chairperson Hoffman's inquiry, Senior Environmental Specialist Dymally advised that PPCPs could be removed with reverse osmosis, some type of distillation process, or nanofiltration, but that it is very expensive for waste water plants to use these methods.

Senior Environmental Specialist Dymally provided information on advanced detection methods, noting that there is now instrumentation that can detect reliably down to one part per trillion. He showed results of Metropolitan Water District (MWD)'s surface water monitoring in 2002, 2003, and 2005, noting the high incidence of anti-depressants.

In response to Commissioner White's inquiry, he explained that they analyzed to this depth to try to determine chronic and cumulative effects as well as interaction of compounds. He further explained that PPCPs go from toilets to waste water or sewage treatment plants and from there could go to waste water reclamation plants; also, they can end up in groundwater due to leaching landfills.

Commissioner Warner initiated a brief discussion regarding buy-back and take-back programs for pharmaceuticals.

Senior Environmental Specialist Dymally reviewed analytical challenges: PPCPs are present in water at very low concentrations; there is a diverse array of compound types; requires sophisticated techniques for detection; there are a limited number of labs with expertise; and water utilities have limited capability for routine monitoring. He briefly discussed types of treatment that includes use of chlorine, ozone, ultra violet, rapid mix, flocculation/sedimentation, and filtration, noting that reverse osmosis and use of a membrane are the most effective but also the most expensive methods.

He concluded his presentation by stating that the consumer is and will continue to be responsible for driving and dictating regulatory concern. He noted that consumer acceptance is based on source protection, cost, treatable, health effects, analytical methodology, occurrence, and public perception of risk.

MWD Director Wright suggested that a way to somewhat mitigate the problem is to use devices to churn water to dissipate return flow so there will not be concentrations in any one area.

The Commission was in recess from 8:00 p.m. to 8:05 p.m.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6A. STATUS REPORT BY AD HOC COMMITTEE ON WATER COMMISSION PURVIEW

Chairperson Hoffman reported that last week he requested a meeting with Mayor Scotto regarding the proposal to expand the purview of the Water Commission but that he has not heard back from him yet. He requested that Public Works Director Beste follow up on his request for a meeting with the committee.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7B. PRESENTATION REGARDING CURRENT WATER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Public Works Director Beste welcomed Project Manager Dettle and commended him for putting together applications for the Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan (IRWMP). He announced that one project was rated second out of 380 projects and that the others were highly rated.

Project Manager Dettle provided an overview presentation on the status of the current Water Capital Improvement program included in the material of record.

Referring to the Walteria and Ben Haggott Reservoirs Rehabilitation (S-31), he stated that the system was being changed so that water flows from the T-7 connection so that it becomes an in-line reservoir instead of an end of the line reservoir. He stated that a crystalline coating would be sprayed inside the concrete that would expand and fill in any holes and cracks in the reservoirs. He advised that the design is moving forward very quickly and that a retaining wall is being built to stabilize the slopes and prevent mudslides.

He reported that plans to replace the undersized Walnut Avenue Transmission Main (I-83) are being reconsidered, and that a consultant is currently conducting an

analysis to install a new, smaller relief main. He advised that design is complete for Water Main Replacements, North Torrance Residential (I-73), with the addition of recycled water retrofits. He stated that designs for I-74 would be done in-house to complete water main replacements north of Artesia Boulevard.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich pointed out that soil conditions and not necessarily age contribute to deterioration of water pipes.

Project Manager Dettle reported that the water main has been installed for Sepulveda Boulevard Water Main Replacement, Hawthorne Boulevard to West City Limit (I-89) and that the project has shifted over to paving.

In response to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, staff explained that the sump system are not water projects that come out of the water enterprise fund.

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden noted that staff is currently in the process of finalizing a focused water infrastructure plan and program for the next five years, which will be presented at an upcoming Water Commission meeting.

8. WEST BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION REPORT

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden stated that at the last West Basin Water Association meeting the West Basin Municipal Water District reported that they are using the highest amount of recycled water ever at the injection barriers, that they received a "Flex Your Power" award, and that MWD is reducing the amount of replenishment water to the district. He stated that other topics of discussion included legislative bill AB640 that would set different groundwater pumping charges for Central and West Basins. He advised that the bill passed in the Appropriations Committee on May 16, 2007 and noted that the MWD Board voted to express opposition to it.

Chairperson Hoffman commended staff for the incredible job that they have done with this issue and Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich thanked Commissioners and MWD Director Wright for being instrumental in convincing MWD Board members to oppose the bill.

MWD Director Wright stated that the City of Long Beach voted against opposing the bill and that the City of Los Angeles abstained.

Responding to Commissioner White's inquiry, Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden advised that Assemblyman Lieu was aware of the bill and has taken a position of opposition.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich commended Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden for making an outstanding presentation at the meeting.

9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reported that Well #6 is in production after extensive rehabilitation and is expected to produce approximately 1,000 acre feet of high quality potable water. He stated that five water main breaks occurred in April 2007, noting that there have been only eight pipeline ruptures in the past three months.

MOTION: Commissioner Warner moved to accept and file the Monthly Department Report. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

10. METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MWD Director Wright distributed his May 14, 2007 letter to City Council and announced an inspection trip to Diamond Valley Lake on September 7-8, 2007. He stated that the purpose of the trip is to teach about the water system and long-term supply as well as the drought and MWD's plan to deal with a catastrophic event.

He briefly discussed MWD's short-term plans for the Delta that would isolate a facility in case of levee collapse.

In response to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, he stated that Torrance is one of 22 member agencies that would be extended a water standby charge.

Responding to Commissioner Rizzardi's inquiries, he explained that the Rideshare Transit Program was a special rate for employees who use public transit and that the Cadiz Valley aquifer project has been cancelled.

11. ORALS

11A. Commissioner White requested that staff not bother to place Commissioner materials in notebooks and Commissioners concurred.

11B. Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich announced the Open House at the City Yard on June 2, 2007.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:52 p.m., Commissioner Rizzardi moved to adjourn the meeting to June 21, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission meeting room. Commissioner Warner seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Hoffman so ordered.

Approved as Submitted June 21, 2007 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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